

REPORT ON PROOF BAR

At the suggestion of the arbitrators, a gold ingot or bar was sent to us by its owner, Leo A. Young, for examination. He wrote that he had acquired the piece for \$2500.00 from John J. Ford, Jr., early in 1966, and that in the fall of 1966 he received a license to hold it from the U.S. Office of Domestic Gold. It will be referred to as Item #29 or "the bar".

The bar weighs 536½ grains and shows no wear. So far as we have been able to determine this bar was theretofore unknown and unpublished.

The bottom of the face of the bar contains four lines of text in a panel reading UNITED STATES ASSAY/OFFICE OF GOLD/SAN FRANCISCO/CALIFORNIA 1853. This panel is identical in size and in the position of lettering to the panel on the 1853 \$20 USAOG pieces including the Garland coin (#5). A study of the bar therefore is relevant to the determination of the genuineness of the Garland coin. The top of the face of the bar contains two lines of text in a panel reading A.HUMBERT/U.S.ASSAYER. The right side of the middle of the face contains one line of text in a panel reading THOU.

The lettering of all of the above panels is raised and each panel appears to have been impressed on the bar by a separate punch. The size of the lettering in each panel differs from the size of the lettering in each of the other panels.

There is separately punched into the bar a figure 1 on the left of the top panel, figure 11 on the right and 999 below. These figures are several times the size of the letters within the panels.

The back is plain and shows raised and flattened areas directly opposite the panels on the front. The sides of the bar are spread from the pressure in impressing the panels and figures.

The punch used to impress the four line panel had no frame line surrounding the text as found on the coins. This occurred because the sides of the punch where the frame line would have been were beveled off. The beveled sides of the punch show clearly on the bar.

An examination of the four line panel shows that a raised spur projects angularly downward to the right from the right end of the right base of the first A in ASSAY. This characteristic appears on coins #5, 7 and 16 and also appears on the pictures of the two gold pieces (#26 and #27) from the Humbert Associate source.

There can also be seen on the four line panel additional evidence of the die break described on page 7 of the testimony given in August, 1966. This additional evidence consists of a break between the base of the first S in ASSAY to the top of the L in GOLD; a tiny break at the center of the lower edge of the base of L in GOLD; and a tiny break on the lower edge of the base of the second C in FRANCISCO.

There is a lump under the right side of the T of UNITED as described on page 6 of the testimony.

The question immediately arises as to how a punch can have a partially developed die break identical to the die break found fully developed on the USAOG coins. If the punch was cut out of a coining die the die itself could no longer have been used for coining \$20 pieces. Likewise the lump under the T of UNITED cannot reappear when it did not appear on coins #5, 7, 16 and on #26 and #27, all of which have a less developed die break, showing only as a spur projecting downward from the right tip of the right base of the first A in ASSAY.

As in the case of the Garland coin it is impossible for the characteristics found on the punch used on the lower part of the bar to have occurred on a genuine punch and therefore the bar must be false.

Pictures of the bar have been taken and will be furnished to arbitrators shortly.

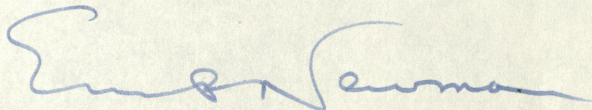
The punch used to impress the panel on the bar was prepared in the same manner as the two false dies used to strike the two types of false USAOG \$20 coinage. At the time the transfer was made from the false positive die the lump under the T of UNITED had not yet been ground off the positive die and the die break from the first S of ASSAY to the L of GOLD was still there. Thus the punch was prepared after the false die to make #6 etc. was made and before the false die to make #5 etc. was made. In all probability more than the panel was transferred to the punch and the sides of the punch including the frame around the panel was ground away.

In the 1960 through 1965 editions of the Red Book there is illustrated and described a U.S. Assay Office Gold one ounce disc which was previously unknown and unreported. This piece was removed from the 1966 and 1967 editions and mentioned as under study. This disc is referred to as #30 and contains what appears to be a panel of the same size and lettering as those on the bar (#29) and the USAOG \$20 pieces. No findings on this disc can be given as neither it nor enlarged pictures have been available to us for examination. It can be pointed out, however, that the disc, the bar and some USAOG pieces struck in lead (#21,22,23) have numbers struck into the pieces after their original striking. The numbers are very large and are incuse. The year of the first publication of the disc is also close to the year of the appearance of the false USAOG \$20 pieces.

It would be helpful to our studies if the following additional facts could be ascertained:

1. What information was disclosed in statements or testimony in order to secure the Federal license for the bar and from what source did it originate.
2. Can the circular U.S. Assay Office Gold disc (#30) or enlarged pictures of it be made available for study and what are the facts as to its source.
3. Is there still a complete refusal by previously examined witnesses to disclose to the arbitrators the facts as to the discovery and acquisition of the Garland and other coins from the Humbert Associate source.

Respectfully submitted



for
ERIC P. NEWMAN NUMISMATIC
EDUCATION SOCIETY

March, 1967